

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 05600 121826Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 121701Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4873

S E C R E T ATHENS 5600

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD FROM PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS

REF: STATE 174045

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS TO PRESIDENT FORD IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S
MESSAGE OF AUGUST 9: BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS
UPON YOUR ASSUMING THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN YOUR GREAT
COUNTRY; I WISH YOU FULL SUCCESS IN YOUR HARD TASK, FOR
THE SAKE NOT ONLY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BUT ALSO OF THE
WHOLE WORLD.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOU WARMLY FOR THE
MESSAGE YOU SENT ME. I WAS PARTICULARLY MOVED BY THE FACT
THAT, DESPITE THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH YOU
ASSUMED YOUR HIGH DUTIES, SOME OF YOUR FIRST THOUGHTS
TURNED TO GREECE AND TO ME PERSONALLY.

THE DIFFICULTIES I FACE AND FOR WHICH YOU SHOWED SUCH
A CLOSE SYMPATHY ARE GREAT INDEED. I TOOK OVER THE TASK
OF GOVERNING MY COUNTRY IN EXTREMELY CRITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
I BELIEVE THAT MY DUTY IS, ON THE ONE HAND TO RELIEVE MY
COUNTRY FROM THE HARSHIPS OF MANY YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP
AND LEAD HER TO A HEALTHY AND RESPONSIBLE DEMOCRACY; ON
THE OTHER HAND TO DELIVER HER FROM THE DANGEROUS TENSIONS
AND AGONY CAUSED BY THE TRAGEDY OF CYPRUS. THE NEED OF A
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05600 121826Z

SIMULTANEOUS SOLUTION TO BOTH THOSE PROBLEMS DETERMINES

THEIR MAGNITUDE AND CRITICAL CONDITION.

IN THESE DIFFICULT MOMENTS THE PROMPTNESS YOU DISPLAYED
IN SHOWING YOUR INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING STRENGTHENS
MY HOPES THAT ALL THE NEEDED EFFORTS WILL BE MADE BY
YOUR COUNTRY AND YOU PERSONALLY, SO THAT PEACE AND JUSTICE
WILL BE SECURED IN THE EASTERN MEDITERANEAN REGION NOW IN
DANGER. IF THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED
THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO BUILD
UNDIVERTEDLY ON THEIR OWN A REAL AND MODERN DEMOCRACY
WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED TO.

THE FULFILMENT OF THIS ASPIRATION WILL CERTAINLY
CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT SUCCESS FOR THE WHOLE FREE WORLD,
A SUCCESS WHICH I AM SURE WILL ALSO REFLECT ON YOUR
COUNTRY, AS A LEADING POWER UNDER YOUR ADMINISTRATION.

WITH WARMEST WISHES,
SINCERELY YOURS,
CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS END TEXT.

COMMENT: FONOFF SECTY GEN VLACHOS CALLED AMBASSADOR TO SAY
GOG WOULD LIKE TO RELEASE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES AND HOPED THIS
WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO UST. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

TASCA

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS05600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740220-0871
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740856/aaaabwhx.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 174045
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD FROM PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (CARAMANLIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005